



NEWS

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

OAK Media Hotline 510-637-1818
John Belluardo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 16, 2002

NNSA FINDS NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS REGARDING PROPOSED BIOSAFETY LEVEL 3 FACILITY AT LIVERMORE LAB

OAKLAND--The proposed Biosafety Level 3 Facility at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory would not significantly affect the environment, according to an environmental assessment released today by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

"Based on the analysis in the environmental assessment for the proposed project, NNSA has determined that no significant environmental impacts are expected and the potential consequences from routine operations would be minimal," Camille Yuan-Soo Hoo, Manager of NNSA's Oakland Operations Office which prepared the assessment, announced today. "The proposed facility will allow NNSA to develop technologies to improve domestic defense capabilities and hopefully, to save lives in the event of a biological attack".

"This Facility will be yet another example of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's preeminent research portfolio which places the Lab at the forefront of our Nation's Homeland Security efforts regarding first response, and rapid detection technologies," stated Yuan-Soo Hoo.

A draft environmental assessment was made available for public comment. Public comments and NNSA responses to those comments are presented in Appendix C of the final environmental assessment which is available for review at the following locations:

DOE Energy Information Center
Oakland Federal Building
First Floor, North Tower
Room 180N, 1301 Clay St.
Oakland, CA
(510) 637-1812

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Public Reading Room
Trailer 6525, Visitor Discovery Center
East Gate Entrance, Greenville Rd., Livermore
(925) 424-4026

Livermore Public Library
1000 South Livermore Ave.
Livermore, CA